

## Message Text

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14-11

ACTION EUR-12

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INFO USDEL MTN GENEVA

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PASS STR AND AGRICULTURE

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EEC

SUBJECT: AGRICULTURE IN MTNS

REF: GENEVA 2658

1. MISSION OFFICERS DISCUSSED THE IMPASSE REGARDING TREATMENT OF AGRICULTURE IN THE MTNS WITH HIJZEN AND PIZUTTI ON APRIL 23. HIJZEN INSISTED THAT THE COMMISSION POSITION HAD NOT SHIFTED FROM THE COMPROMISE HE WORKED OUT WITH MALMGREN IN FEBRUARY, AS STATED IN THE TNC CHAIRMAN'S SUMMING-UP. SPECIFICALLY, HE RE-ITERATED THE UNDERSTANDING THAT THE COMMUNITY WOULD NOT INSIST THAT THE AGRICULTURE GROUP HAVE EXCLUSIVE JURISDICTION OVER AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS, AND THAT IT WOULD NOT SEEK TO BLOCK DISCUSSION OF AGRICULTURAL QUESTIONS IN OTHER GROUPS IF THIS WAS DESIRED BY OTHER COUNTRIES, THOUGH THE COMMUNITY FOR ITS PART WOULD RESERVE THE RIGHT TO DISCUSS ITS OWN AGRICULTURAL POLICY IN THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE. HIJZEN AND PIZZUTI CONFIRMED THAT THE EC WOULD BE WILLING TO PARTICIPATE ACTIVELY AT THE LONDON TALKS IF THE COMMODITY SUB-GROUPS

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WERE ESTABLISHED.

2. THE REAL PROCEDURAL ISSUES, AS HIJZEN SEES THEM, ARE THE FOLLOWING:

A. WHETHER AGRICULTURAL SUB-GROUPS, FUNCTIONAL AS WELL AS SECTORAL, SHOULD BE CREATED;

B. WHETHER THESE SUB-GROUPS ARE "NEGOTIATING GROUPS."

3. THE COMMUNITY POSITION IS THAT SUB-GROUPS ON TARIFFS AND NTBS SHOULD BE CREATED IN ADDITION TO SUB-GROUPS ON GRAINS, DAIRY PRODUCTS, MEAT, AND SUGAR. HOWEVER, THE COMMUNITY WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT CREATION OF THE TARIFF AND NTB SUB-GROUPS WITHOUT A DATE BEING SET FOR THEIR FIRST MEETINGS.

4. THE COMMUNITY REGARDS THE AGRICULTURAL COMMITTEE AND ALL THE SUB-GROUPS IT PROPOSES AS "NEGOTIATING GROUPS." HOWEVER, HIJZEN SAYS THAT SO LONG AS OTHERS DON'T INSIST ON SAYING THAT THE COMMITTEE AND THESE SUB-GROUPS ARE NOT NEGOTIATING GROUPS, THE COMMUNITY COULD REFRAIN FROM DESCRIBING THEM AS SUCH.

5. HIJZEN IS WILLING TO DISCUSS THIS PROBLEM WITH SENIOR OFFICIALS FROM WASHINGTON PRIOR TO THE MAY 7 AGRICULTURE GROUP MEETING. HOWEVER, HE IS UNAVAILABLE APRIL 30, WHEN HE MUST ATTEND THE OECD TRADE COMMITTEE. THOUGH HIJZEN EXPECTS TO BE FREE ON APRIL 28 AND 29, PIZZUTI AND RABOT WOULD BE TIED UP IN THE AGRICULTURAL COUNCIL. ONE POSSIBILITY THAT THE US MIGHT CONSIDER IS SUGGESTING THAT WASHINGTON OFFICIALS MEET WITH HIJZEN APRIL 29 FOLLOWED BY TALKS WITH RABOT ON APRIL 30. MYERSON

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